

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCCHAR 01038 130828Z

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIA-06 /022 W

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R 130711Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1980

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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STATE FOR CU/ARTS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, RO

SUBJECT: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS - U.S. PROFESSIONAL THEATRE

REF: STATE 042654

1. EMBASSY MOST ANXIOUS RECEIVE RESULTS OF DEPARTMENT EVALUATION OF TWO PROFESSIONAL U.S. THEATRE COMPANIES DISCUSSED REFTEL. TENTATIVE PROPOSAL TO PROGRAM GROUP IN EE DURING MAY-JUNE PERIOD ALLOWS US EXTREMELY SHORT LEAD TIME TO PROPOSE PROGRAM AND RECEIVE FIRM APPROVAL. THEATRES HERE ARE, OF COURSE, FULLY BOOKED THROUGH PRESENT SEASON AND OUR PROPOSAL WOULD NEED TO BE SUFFICIENTLY ATTRACTIVE TO ENCOURAGE COUNCIL FOR SOCIALIST CULTURE AND EDUCATION TO SUBSTITUTE VISITING AMERICAN GROUP FOR NORMAL SCHEDULE.

2. WE ARE LESS INTERESTED IN AT-U-MAI GROUP AT THIS POINT SINCE WE FEEL THAT ROMANIAN PROFESSIONALS AND AUDIENCES WOULD BE MORE INTERESTED IN MAINSTREAM AMERICAN THEATRE. SINCE THIS WOULD BE FIRST LIVE THEATRE VENTURE FOR POST PROGRAMMING, WE WOULD PREFER LOS ANGELES THEATRE. WE ARE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTERESTED, HOWEVER, IN DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON BOTH.

3. MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE WILL NEED QUITE SPECIFIC ADVANCE MATERIALS TO GAIN OFFICIAL ACCEPTANCE AND SPONSORSHIP OF THIS PROJECT HERE. IN ADDITION TO FULL SCRIPTS, PHOTOS, AND OTHER DESCRIPTIVE MATERIALS, A FULL-LENGTH VTR OF PERFORMANCE WOULD BE INVALUABLE ASSET. THEATRE IS, OF COURSE, TIGHTLY CONTROLLED HERE. RECENT FOREIGN PRESENTATIONS HAVE INCLUDED A KABUKI TROUPE FROM JAPAN AND "RED DETACHMENT OF WOMEN" FROM PRC. AUTUMN 1972 PRODUCTION OF PETER BROOKE'S "MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM" SPONSORED BY BRITISH EMBASSY WAS EXTREMELY SHOCKING TO CULTURAL BUREAUCRATS. WE CAN EXPECT, THEREFORE, TO HAVE OUR PROPOSAL CAREFULLY SCRUTINIZED. VTR WOULD EASE PATH CONSIDERABLY IF PROPOSAL BECOMES REALITY.

BARNES

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